



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

January 17, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**SACRAMENTO UPDATE**

**Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

**SB 411 (Alarcon)**, as amended on January 13, 2006, would eliminate the use of diversion credit for green waste as an alternative daily cover (ADC). Existing law, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), requires cities and counties to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed at landfills by 50 percent. Failure to mathematically demonstrate achievement of this requirement may subject a jurisdiction to penalties of up to \$10,000 per day.

In order to reduce the use of clean soil as cover material, the State approved the use of green waste ADC and allowed diversion credit for such use. In 1996, the State enacted AB 1647, reaffirming its commitment to allow diversion credit for green waste ADC. The Department of Public Works (DPW) indicates that due to the ability to obtain diversion credit for utilizing green waste ADC, jurisdictions and private industry invested in expensive equipment and infrastructure to implement green waste recycling programs which provide for the separate collection of green waste, to be used as ADC or in the production of mulch or compost. Seventy-seven jurisdictions in Los Angeles County now rely on this infrastructure to manage green waste material and meet the State's 50 percent waste reduction mandate, since green waste accounts for approximately 15 percent of the waste stream.

DPW indicates that, if enacted, SB 411 would jeopardize local jurisdictions' achievement of the State's 50 percent waste reduction mandate and increase costs for local jurisdictions and residents for the collection and processing of green waste materials. DPW recommends that the County oppose SB 411 and we concur. Opposition to SB 411 is consistent with existing policy to oppose legislation to eliminate diversion credits for the use of green waste as a landfill cover. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will oppose SB 411.** SB 411 is set for hearing on January 17, 2006 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**HIV Names-Based Reporting Legislation.** Our Sacramento Advocates, along with the Administration, legislative staff, and numerous HIV/AIDS organizations, including the County's Commission on HIV, have been working over the past several months to finalize language to address concerns regarding confidentiality, security protections and enforcement. We believe that the new language mitigates almost all of the opposition to the bill. **SB 699 (Soto)** was amended to include this language on January 12, 2006, and now replaces last year's bill, County-sponsored **SB 945 (Soto)**. **Therefore, the County will sponsor SB 699 (Soto).** Senators Kehoe, Kuehl and Migden, and Assembly Members Goldberg, Laird and Leno are listed on the bill as principal co-authors. SB 699 is on the Senate Floor and may be taken up sometime next week.

#### **Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-supported AB 158 (Bermudez)**, which would have required the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to convene a special task force to study certain railroad safety issues, including vandalism, transporting hazardous waste, and identifying threats from terrorism, deficiencies in current land use planning and deficiencies for responding to railroad emergencies, was amended on January 11, 2006. AB 158 would now create the Special Railroad Safety Task Force, comprised of specified members and require the task force to meet monthly from January 2007 to December 2007, and to study railroad safety issues discussed above and make recommendations for improving railroad safety. The task force would be required to submit its findings and recommendations on railroad safety issues to the CPUC no later than 90 days after its last meeting. **Since the focus of the bill is still on railroad safety, our Sacramento advocates will continue to support AB 158.** This measure is set for hearing on January 18, 2006 in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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### **Hospital Financing Waiver Hearing**

A Joint Informational Hearing of the Senate Health Committee, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3, the Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 from 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. to discuss the implementation of the Hospital Financing Waiver, and the coverage initiative. Representatives from the Administration will be presenting testimony.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DW:MS:EW:cc

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Local 660  
         All Department Heads  
         Legislative Strategist  
         Coalition of County Unions  
         California Contract Cities Association  
         Independent Cities Association  
         League of California Cities  
         City Managers Associations  
         Buddy Program Participants